Governor's Water Augmentation Council
April 7, 2017
Meeting Summary

Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm
Location: Arizona Department of Water Resources

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Chairman Tom Buschatzke called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. Council members introduced themselves individually. The Chairman reminded the Council that they were here today to hear committee reports, Planning Area process updates, and to discuss the 2017 Annual Report.

Committee Reports

Desalination Committee

Bob Lotts, Chairman of the Desalination Committee, discussed a theoretical timeline for a desalination project within Arizona, from concept to construction. He explained that , although the timeline extends ten years, this is typical of many projects at this scale, and it may lengthen or shorten depending on the location of the project and the stakeholders involved.

Mr. Lotts provided an update on the Desalination Committee. At the most recent meeting, the committee discussed areas identified for possible brackish water desalination projects. This list was based on the Montgomery & Associates report, "Phase 1 Brackish Groundwater Inventory for Arizona," which was published in 2008 for the Central Arizona Water Conservation District. The areas identified are currently being evaluated with respect to their feasibility as possible sites for an augmentation project. Mr. Lotts encouraged stakeholders to express their thoughts and concerns regarding the project sites to the committee.
The full report may be found here.

Recycled Water Committee

John Kmiec, Chairman of the Recycled Water Committee, reviewed the committee's task of assessing the current status of reclaimed water recommendations that were identified in the Blue Ribbon Panel on Water Supply Sustainability Report, as well as the impediments and opportunities for new reclaimed water projects across Arizona. Mr. Kmiec stated that three meetings have been held since the committee's inception, and have included several presentations regarding recycled water use.

At the most recent meeting, the committee heard five presentations on the Recharge Program statutes. Topics included, historical context of the statutes, implications of the Program, and examples of recharge facilities. Mr. Kmiec added that the consensus of the committee was to reexamine the 50 percent credit accounting for effluent recharged in managed facilities. During the March 29th committee meeting, Committee Member Warren Tenney expressed interest in examining the possibility of

repeating the 2025 sunset date on Long Term Storage Credits for effluent recharge. The committee will continue to discuss these issues at the upcoming May 22nd meeting.

When asked about the practicality of changing the managed recharge facility credit system, Mr. Kmiec said that the committee is still in the discussion phase and will focus on stakeholder concerns at the next meeting.

The full report may be found here.

Long-Term Water Augmentation Committee

Warren Tenney, a member of the Long-Term Water Augmentation Committee provided an update on behalf of Chairwoman Maureen George. He provided an overview of the presentations of various stakeholders. Presentations included efforts to achieve a sustainable water supply for their customers and methods on how to obtain data for projecting demand for water in Arizona. Speakers included representatives from the Salt River Project, The Nature Conservancy, Arizona Department of Water Resources, Central Arizona Project, and the University of Arizona. Each of these presentations may be found here.
The full report may be found here.

The next meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, May 3rd. Presentations on the Pacific Institute Report titled, "The Cost of Alternative Water Supply and Efficiency Options in California," and ADWR's Planning Area Projected Demands Map will be given. There will also be a review of the augmentation options table which will be used as a guide for drafting a request for proposal.

Finance Committee

Sandy Fabritz, Chairwoman of the Finance Committee, provided an update on the February 16th meeting. During that meeting, ADWR staff presented on funding mechanisms for large water augmentation projects in California, Florida, and Texas. Staff also presented a data analysis project on the Planning Area water demand projections.

The next meeting will be held on Friday, April 14th. Topics will include further analysis of the Planning Area demand data, to help understand where the need for future project funding could arise. The next meeting will also include discussion of the former efforts from the Water Resources Development Commission Finance Committee. The full report may be found here.

Annual Report Discussion

ADWR staff, Martin Stiles, introduced the draft report to the Council and highlighted the major sections: background, annual activities of the GWAC, the Planning Area process, and recommendations. The Council was then given the choice between making changes in the document at that time, or to send suggested changes to ADWR. It was decided that Council members would have three weeks (until April 28th) to submit changes to ADWR for editing the draft Annual Report. A link for the public to review and comment on the April 7th rough draft can be found here: 2017 Annual Report Rough Draft

A revised document will be presented at the June 9th GWAC meeting.

Planning Areas Update

Gerry Walker, ADWR Deputy Assistant Director, provided an update on the Arizona Water Initiative Planning Area Process. Both the Northwest Basin and the West Basins Planning Areas are in the process of approving updated data sets that will be published in the final reports. The Planning Area Process has allowed stakeholders to voice their concerns about water demand issues and to work towards solution sets. The process has also worked to update water use data sets from 2010.

Closing Remarks and Next Meeting

The next GWAC meeting will be held Friday, June 9, 2017 at 10:00am at the Arizona Department of Water Resources, 1110 W. Washington, Suite 310, Phoenix, AZ 85007.